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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 2 February 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the morning of Sunday, 1 February 2015, during rush hour, Damascus was again hit by a cowardly terrorist attack on innocent civilians. Terrorists used a high-explosive device to target a civilian bus in the Kalasah area, near the crowded Hamidiyah market. According to a preliminary count, six civilians were killed and 24 others, including children, were wounded. There was also significant damage to property. A second device was defused by the engineering squad.

This was one of a series of similar terrorist attacks on civilians that have affected most governorates in the country over the last four years. Missiles, mortars, hellfire cannons and various explosives have all been used. The perpetrators are armed terrorist groups in the pay of Governments in the region and beyond, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The impact on the city of Aleppo has been particularly severe. On a daily basis, the groups have plundered and destroyed the city's quarters and heritage sites and murdered civilian men, women and children. The following are but a few examples among many. On 28 January 2015, the armed terrorist groups bombarded the Ashrafiyah and Khalidiyah quarters with mortars and hellfire cannons, killing two civilians and injuring 32 others. On 30 January 2015, the groups blew up a tunnel that they had dug under the eighth-century Umayyad Mosque of Aleppo, causing part of the eastern wall to collapse. Before that, terrorists belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front had bombed the minaret and southern door of the mosque on 24 April 2014, bombed the southern wall in February 2013, and looted and burned the contents in October 2012. The *takfirist* organizations' repeated acts of terrorism against innocent civilians and places of worship highlight their obscurantist Wahhabi ideology, which is opposed to human civilization.

The terrorist bombing of one of the oldest and most authentic markets in Damascus, the indiscriminate shelling of Aleppo and the slaughter of two Japanese civilians by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are part of an inhumane

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spate of vandalism, killings, beheadings and cannibalism that have been perpetrated since the outset of the crisis in Syria by such armed terrorist groups as ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam and other Al-Qaida satellites.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns all forms of terrorism in the strongest possible terms. It again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to denounce these terrorist crimes. It urges them to take the necessary action to hold to account the perpetrators and the States and forces within the region and beyond that openly flaunt their support for armed terrorist groups. Syria reiterates its call on the Security Council to enforce its own counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolution 2170 (2014), by doing what it takes to prevent those States from providing such support. In order to achieve that objective, the States of the world must cooperate and coordinate with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in its war on terror.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that such acts of terrorism will not dissuade it or weaken its resolve to combat terrorism, terrorist groups and mercenaries. At the same time, Syria will pursue its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria on the basis of dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.